



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOMALIAN NATIVE INDICTED FOR \$4 MILLION IN UNLICENSED MONEY TRANSFERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for operating an illegal money transmitting business that wired nearly \$4 million to the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere, and for structuring financial transactions in order to evade federal reporting requirements.

Ahmed Abdi Nur, 29, of Kansas City, was charged in a 49-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **Nur**, a native of Somalia and a naturalized citizen of the United States, operates Amal Business Center, a retail store at 4436 St. John in Kansas City that sells groceries and clothing.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Nur** owned and directed an unlicensed money transmitting business from Jan. 1, 1998, to July 17, 2003. According to the indictment, **Nur** operated a money transmitting service in Kansas City under several names – including Amal Counseling Services, Dar al Tawakul General Trading LLC, d/b/a Tawakul Money Express, and since December 2003, Sagal Money Wire, Inc.

According to the indictment, **Nur** made approximately \$4 million in deposits into several bank accounts that were opened under various names in the Kansas City area. More than \$3 million of that amount, the indictment alleges, was comprised of cash deposits. **Nur** allegedly transferred approximately \$3.8 million to locations outside the United States, including United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea and Indonesia, as well as an account in Minneapolis, Minn., which later transferred funds to the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

According to the indictment, **Nur** failed to register either himself or any of his companies with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as required by federal law. **Nur** also failed to register

and obtain a license from the state of Missouri to operate a money transmitting business.

Counts Two through Forty-nine of the federal indictment allege a series of financial transactions that were structured to evade currency reporting requirements. Under federal law, Graves explained, any financial transaction in excess of \$10,000 must be reported to the government. According to the indictment, **Nur** made numerous deposits of less than \$10,000 into accounts at four separate banks at various locations in the Kansas City area between April 16, 2001, and Aug. 27, 2004. In addition to making deposits to the various bank accounts himself, the indictment alleges, **Nur** knew that other individuals were making deposits under \$10,000 to his account at a St. Louis, Mo., branch bank. Those deposits, the indictment alleges, were structured in such a way to avoid the federal reporting requirements.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow